LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-30 (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) A method for decreasing the quantity of vapor emissions released into the surrounding atmosphere created during the use of an oligonucleotide synthesizer, said method comprising;

a) providing an oligonucleotide synthesizer, wherein said oligonucleotide synthesizer comprises a reaction chamber and a lid enclosure, said lid enclosure containing a ventilation system, wherein in an open position, said lid enclosure provides a substantially ventilated workspace via said ventilation system in said lid enclosure, wherein in said open position said ventilated workspace is of sufficient size to permit an operator's hands to enter said reaction chamber;

b) connecting said oligonucleotide synthesizer to a ventilation system connected to a source of negative pressure or vacuum; and

c) operating said source of negative pressure or vacuum only when said lid enclosure comprising a ventilation system is in said open position; wherein said method is utilized while operating said oligonucleotide synthesizer to synthesize one or more oligonucleotides.

32. (previously presented) The method of Claim 31, wherein said operating of said source of negative pressure or vacuum is triggered to occur automatically whenever said lid enclosure is placed in said open position.